

Semester exchange programme at PH Zug

The support from the PH Zug was very consistent and good. I was always able to reach them and the answers came instantly. The PH Zug even organised a course just for us exchange students to help us settle into the new PH and country. The only thing that was a little unfortunate was how the bank situation was, but they were open and transparent with us and managed to resolve the problem quickly.

Luckily my classroom teacher was really supportive. She helped me if I had questions while planning the lessons and her feedback always included tips which was very helpful

The buddies were especially nice. They often invited us to do activities with them. They informed us about events in Zug and the surrounding areas which we often attended together.

Finding an accommodation was really easy. Finding is even the wrong word. The international office offered me a room at the monastery, which I immediately took, because it was the cheapest option. The monastery room is small, but it is more than enough space for the time I was spending there. I am really glad I took the room, the kitchen and bathrooms were cleaned once a week, which was very fortunate. I made good friends there and always felt comfortable and it had a feeling like I was at home.

I paid 450 CHF rent a month which is very good for Switzerland.

The approximate monthly living costs without the rent is probably around 200 CHF. I am not good at guessing, so I hope that's right.

The study program at the PH Zug was very interesting. I was able to choose most of my classes, which I liked a lot. At first the class catalogue was a little complicated to read, but I figured it out very quickly. Once I did that it was easy to pick the classes and I was able to pick anything I wanted. The incoming office was very helpful. Once I send them my choices, they told me which classes overlapped and what else I could take. I was able to get into every class that was on my final LA. They were also flexible, because the first two weeks we were able to get out of classes if we realized that we did not like it.

The classes itself were on a very personal basis. We were always able to talk to the lecturers if we needed another explanation about the assignments ("Lernkarte"). We did not have a lot of exams in the end. You do the work of the class in the semester. Often it is a presentation about something you researched or created. It is more work during the semester but less stress at the end which is nice.

It was really nice to be able to be at the school once a week and experience teaching yourself. My teacher was really nice and helpful. She gave me great tips that will help me in the future. The challenge at the PH Zug is also related to the Tuesday at school. I never made a lesson plan before and here I had to do two lessons every week without any help which was very hard. But I always made it which made me proud. I would have only liked a little more help and time to ease into it.

I definitely benefited from the program. You learn so much about yourself when you are living in another country. You learn different ways to solve problems, you learn to ask for help which can be challenging, and you learn about your social competence. I recommended doing every hike you can because all are worth it.

My personal positive evaluations are the landscapes in Switzerland, everything is so beautiful. It is great for skiing and snowboarding, because even the tall mountains are not that far away and the thirdly the friendships I made here.

My negative evaluation is firstly that Switzerland is a very expensive country, and it took me a while to get used to and secondly that the students from PH Zug are not very open.